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IN THE UNITED STATES RATE AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

10/643,394 Appln No.

Applicant(s): Yoshinori TSUBAKI et al.

Filed August 18, 2003

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Art Unit 1744

Examiner

Docket No. 03478/HG :

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Laraine Dobies

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper

to Account No. 06-1378.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Submitted herewith are:

Copy of a Communication and Search Report issued from a foreign patent office in the counterpart European application.

Each of the cited publications is in English.

Copies of publications listed in the above-identified (2) application.

The relevance of these documents is discussed on pages 2, 3 and 6 of the specification. An English language Abstract is also provided for each cited document.

(3) Form PTO/SB/08A. It is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record; and

(4) Copies of the publications listed on said PTO/SB/08A Form.

A first action on the merits has not yet been received in this case. Therefore no fee is required. However, if it is determined that a fee is required, please charge our Account No. 06-1378.

It is respectfully requested that the attached publications be considered and made "of record".

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C. 767 Third Ave., 25th Floor New York, NY 10017-2023 Tel. No. (212) 319-4900 Fax No.: (212) 319-5101

MJC/ld

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL J. CHICK-Req. No. 26,853

Encs. Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE 10/643,394 Application Number Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO August 18, 2003 Filing Date INFORMATION DISCLOSUR Yoshinori TSUBAKI First Named Inventor STATEMENT BY APPICECANT 1744 Group Art Unit DEC 1 5 2003 Examiner Name Attorney Docket Number Sheet 1 03478/HG U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Publication Kind Name of Patentee or Relevant Exam. Cite Document Number Code² Applicant Date MM-DD-YYYY Portion Inits* No1 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Publication Relevant Exam Cite \mathbf{T}^{6} Document Number4 Code⁵ Applicant Date MM-DD-YYYY Portion Offc3 Inits No1 Wheeler et al. 09-20-1995 EΡ 0 672 537 Α1 PCT WO 00/24529 Α1 A. J. Naisby 05-04-2000 GB 2 151 945 Α Tani et al. 07-31-1985 JΡ Α Shiyuhichirou et al 11-17-1989 01-286886 Yoichi et al. 05-12-1998 J₽ 10-119423 Α JΡ 09-263038 Α Hideki et al. 10-07-1997 *English Language Abstract Only

* EXAMINER: Initial if document considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Date

Considered

DATE MAILED: December 15, 2003

Examiner

Signature

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ¹ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁴ Place a check here if English translation is attached.